

*from Seattle  
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# The King's Highway

## An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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245

### THE NEED OF THE HOUR . . . A WITNESSING CHURCH

"It is not well that I should move  
Forever in life's easy street.  
Why should my feet not bleed for love?  
Love's bled for me, and Love is sweet."

When our Lord commissioned His twelve apostles, He warned them that the day would come when they would be called upon to bear witness for Him before kings, governors and councils. They would be hated, persecuted, and some would suffer a cruel death for His name's sake. Prior to His ascension He reminded them again of their primary task. On receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, they were to be witnesses—"in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

In the Acts of the Apostles we have a record of obedience on the part of the Twelve. With great courage and joy they bore witness to the fulfillment of prophecy in Jesus of Nazareth. They testified to His deity, His atoning death, His glorious resurrection, His triumphant ascension into heaven, and to the people of His coming again. Great results attended their witness; thousands were converted to the Christian faith, and confessed Christ in baptism. The Jewish authorities were alarmed, and commended the apostles to cease their witness. But neither beatings nor threatenings could silence these messengers. "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." The whole Church felt under obligation to witness for Christ, and when scattered abroad through persecution "they went about preaching the Word."

In the early days of Christianity many suffered a cruel martyrdom rather than be unfaithful to their Lord. In those days of Christian witness the Church made rapid progress, and Christian churches were established in the distant parts of the earth.

#### The obligation to Witness

It is to be feared that today we have lost our sense of obligation to witness for Christ. We do not feel called upon to speak of Christ. This, we feel, is the work of ministers, lay preachers, and such like. If we attend church in order to worship God on the Sabbath, and render financial support, we think we have done well. Many of us would have to confess we have never spoken to anyone of Christ: we have never thought to lead another into the church. There is no one whom our friends need more than they need Christ; and yet we are so reluctant to speak. We will worship, sing, pray, give, do anything rather than converse with a loved one, a neighbor, a fellow worker, about Christ.

Why are we so reserved and silent? Why

are we not striving, with heart and soul, to bring others to Christ? I have often heard it said that "if the life is right, there is no need to speak of Christ." Indeed, the life is the best witness for Christ, and unless our life rings true it will be far better for the sake of Christ's fair name that we remain silent. But where the life reveals Christ, the lips should confess Him. When the life is true, our words, however feeble and halting they may be, will go forth laden with power. Many are silent because they feel it is no part of their duty to speak to others of Christ. But it is their duty; they cannot escape from the obligation. There are so many who never enter our churches, and unless we bear witness in daily life they will never be reached.

#### Christ is Dishonored by Silence

Our silence is dishonoring to Christ. We give the outsider the impression that our Christian faith is of little consequence. Yet we know this is wrong, for Christ has done everything for us. Dare we think where and what we should have been but for the grace of God! In the hour when our fearful souls were weighed down with the burden of guilt, we found deliverance at the Cross. In the hour of some fierce temptation, the hand of Christ saved us. In the darkest hours of life He has been our shield. In times of perplexity we know it was the hand of God that guided us. When we grievously sinned against Him, He graciously pardoned us and treated our souls.

If God has blessed us—and He has—then "let the redeemed of the Lord say so." All around us there are disappointed, dissatisfied, disillusioned men and women. In the secret places of their life such folk are suffering defeat, and they know it. We have a Christ who can quell their passions, who can satisfy their deepest longings, who can make life a glad, new thing for them. By the witness of our life and lips we may bring them to Christ, the great Saviour and Emancipator of human souls.

It is amazing what God has done through the feeble witness of His servants. A quiet word spoken for Christ may work wonders for God in another life. An old God-fearing woman urged a little girl to yield her heart to Christ, and in a back court the great decision was made. That girl was Mary Slessor, who became the "White Queen of Calabar." How much Africa owes under God to that simple old soul in Dundee! I heard a commandant of the Salvation Army tell a large crowd at a holiday resort that he was brought to Christ through a lad who stepped into the Army ring and simply said, "I know I'm saved," and then rejoined his comrades. She was a gay, worldly lass, and said: "That lad

knows more than I do," and she found no peace till she had reached the same assurance of salvation.

Who can measure the influence of a simple word spoken for Christ? Let us be faithful in seizing every opportunity to bear our testimony for Christ, and the Spirit of God in secret and silent ways will work in the other hearts.

#### Joy in Christian Witness

There is no joy on earth equal to the joy of Christian witness. The early disciples experienced the deepest joy ever when they suffered for their witness. They went to the stake with a song and a smile. Many today, especially in heathen lands, count it a joy to suffer in their witness for Christ. The very fact that we have been faithful to the word of Christ gives joy whatever may be the result. Great is the joy when through our witness another enters into the peace of God's forgiveness. God shares with us His joy when we share with Him the burden of a world's salvation.

If we would but break from our reserve and bear glad witness for Christ our own faith would be strengthened, our joy increased, our experience enlarged. When every Christian feels under a sacred compulsion to tell others of what Christ means to him and what He will do for them, then shall we witness a mighty movement of the Spirit throughout the land.  
—Peniel Herald.

#### MORE RELICS AND BONES

To enhance the Roman Church's repository of bones, beads, rags and such like, Vatican City now proclaims to the world that "a great revelation" will be made shortly concerning the finding of the bones of the disciple Peter, supposed to be located under St. Peter's basilica in Rome.

But who cares? They claim to have the robe of the Christ, feathers from the rooster which crowed when Peter denied his Lord, a phial of the Virgin's milk, nails which pierced the hands and feet of the Saviour, and pieces of the cross.

The Jerusalem Cross is on its way to Canada, so a Roman Catholic report from London (Aug. 14) states. It contains "a relic of the True Cross". We are told that if all the pieces of wood supposed to be parts of the cross were brought together they would build a good-sized boat.

In addition to the supposed bones of Peter and the wood of the Cross of Christ, the Roman Church is sending a relic of the arm of St. Francis Xavier from Rome to Japan. Japan needs the Gospel and American Protestants are sending Bibles. Rome sends a decayed forearm of a priest who died 400 years ago. The

(Continued on Page 4)